Apart from participants from within the country, delegates from the foreign countries (Nepal, Bangladesh, SriLanka, Singapore, Pakistan and Malaysia) also attended this Workshop.

(d) The Workshop provided a forum for exchange of views and discussions on various aspects of drug abuse control and prevention programmes at non-official level.

CLUSA and CIDA Projects at Anand

1399. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH.
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oilseed shortfall was avoidable, atleast partly, if necessary steps had been taken in time as reported in the Times of India dated 21st October, 1987,

(b) whether it is also a fact that CLUSA and CIDA projects were started at Anand with sizable aid from the USA and Canada for improving productivity and if so, the results of improvements in the States where the funds have been invested;

(c) whether imported gifted oils have been released in Gujarat mostly thereby resulting in decreased production as has happened in food aid over the years under projects like PL 480 and Operation Flood; and

(d) whether the imported oils under CLUSA and CIDA will be sold through public distribution system to ensure that these are not misused by the NDDB to harm the indigenous industry and production as has been done by them in the case of Operation Flood Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir. The South-West Monsoon set in a week late and its advancement was slow, erratic and truant. The weather aberrations was so critical that it was difficult to grow even grasses. Had the weather been favourable the oilseed production could have been increased substantially in the current kharif season.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Dairy Development Board's Project for restructuring edible oil and oilseed production and marketing was initiated with the aid received from CLUSA and CIDA in the form of gift oil. The main objectives being the establishment of modernised oilseed and vegetable oil industry through Oilseed Growers Cooperatives which will put the functions of oilseed production, processing and marketing into the producers own hand through the Establishment of State Oilseed Growers Federation (GROFED). So far the following Farmers Cooperative Societies at primary level have been formed:—

Gujarat—1154, Madhya Pradesh—772, Tamil Nadu—254, Andhra Pradesh—227, Karnataka—198, Orissa—216, Maharashtra—148 upto September, 1987

(c) The imported oil had been released to all the seven States where NDDB's Project is in operation including Gujarat. It is not correct to say that oilseed production in Gujarat has declined on this account.

(d) No, Sir. The objective of the NDDB's oilseed project is to generate funds by the sale of imported oil at market price through the Cooperative Institutions organised under the Project except a quantity of 10,000 tonnes were sold to Vanaspati Industry under the direction of the Ministry of Civil Supplies and about 16,000 tonnes for market intervention in 1980 with the permission of the Government of India.